

SOMERS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY MEETING 10/9/13

ATTENDANCE: Carole Pyne (chair), Ed Sullivan, Patricia Loftus, George Warner, David Morgan

Guests: David McCaffrey, CT Valley Landscaping

MINUTES: July 10, 2013 minutes approved

Report from Somers Finance Office:

COMPLAINTS: None filed in writing with Town Hall. Chairperson Pyne received two phone calls at home. 1. A funeral home requested a Sunday burial (denied). 2. Warren Pease, son buried in New West, requested permission to cut out the grass and put down sod (denied). He may put down fertilizer instead.

SALES: 4/9/13 to 10/2/13 - 30 lots were sold (2 plots per) We do not ordinarily get a quarterly statement from Town Hall and will be requesting this information in time for our quarterly meetings. (David Morgan & Pat Loftus will make the request)

Extensive discussion was held about having notations on certificate paperwork to show if veteran burial is a possibility. Information would be helpful to those helping owner or family procure proper memorial stones and markers. This would need to be done by the finance office, as they are the ones handling the customers. (David

Morgan and Pat Loftus will inquire about having this done and provide solution ideas.)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Ed Sullivan. Copies on file.

(Motion made / new business)

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. David McCaffrey reported that there has been no additional damage to stones found. Some veteran medallions have been stolen from Old West and New West. . Extras medallions are available from the Somers Legion. CSP has been notified of the theft issue and of visitors after dark to the table stones in North.

Total veteran stones raised and reset are as follows: Legion members – 130, DOC crews – 210. 340 total this season so far.

- b. Large spruce has been removed from northwest quadrant of North. Stones beneath will be checked and repair needs noted for future jobs.
- c. Jonathan Appell completed seasonal repairs in North and West. Committee member (Loftus) was able to observe and learn how the stones are repaired having stopped to introduce herself during a work period in North.
- d. Fertilizing to be done at Center Cemetery after leaves are removed from the ground in another few weeks. Date to be after Veteran's Day.
- e. Gil Vasseur finished cutting back the viburnum at Center.

- f. 1. Somers Public Library is busy with genealogical searches. They are pleased to accept any data or materials we might be able to give them. They do have storage for maps.
2. Somers High School English Department head and the Drama Club advisor will be contacted to see if they are interested in helping to advance knowledge of our cemeteries through reenactments.
3. Several towns do offer flashlight tours at this time of year and will be observed to see how they handle this type of project.
4. Fee increase for plots postponed.
5. Digital information (photos of stones) available from David McCaffrey. It is hoped that the information will be available online through the library website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Dates for next year's meetings proposed: Jan 8, 2PM, APRIL 17 THURSDAY @ 7 PM, July 9, 2 PM, October 8, 2 PM. Motion to accept. Voted: passed 100%
- b. Fall clean up will be after Veteran's Day.
- c. January 2014 cemetery maintenance bids for two year contracts will be available on the town web site January 2014 and a notice of accepting bids published in the J.I. newspaper as required by the state. Send any language changes to Carole. Discussion commenced regarding the adding of "edging of stones". This will be considered.

- d. Proposal to cut back and clear brush in New West on the west side. (West side to the telephone pole boundary) No bid needed if under \$5000.00. Agreement by the committee that CT Valley Landscaping who has the contract for that cemetery location will do the work for the written proposal of \$800.00. CTVL will send a new proposal to include the west side of New West, at an additional price.

Note: Possibility of indigent prisoners buried long ago (1940's) in unmarked graves near where the utility poles lay. Best known as a Potter's Field.

- e. Obtain proposals for new cemetery signage in January 2014. New signs to include "no grave stone rubbings". Motion made and passed unanimously.
- f. Columbarium information including prices to be researched by David Morgan and presented at a later date.

**Adjourned at 4:00 PM**

**Next meeting: January 8, 2014**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Loftus

Committee Secretary

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting